दुनियाभर में एक रिप्यूटिड कंपनी थी, जिसने ऑफर किया था, उससे लोगों ने बातचीत की है, उसका प्रेजेंटेशन देखा है। इसलिए मैं आश्वस्त करना चाहता हूं कि सेफ्टी ट्रेक रिकार्ड इंडियन रेलवे का ठीक है, दुनिया भर से तुलना करने पर भी, और उसमें हम लगातार इम्प्रूवमेंट कर रहे हैं और सबसे बड़ी बात है कि यहां का जागृत जनमत, जागृत पार्लियामेंट, जागृत मीडिया, ये सब हमेशा अपनी नज़र रखता है, उसके कारण भी रेलवे अपना काम और तेजी से करती है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 342.

Funds to drought/flood affected States

*342. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:†

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre had decided to release more funds from the Contingency Fund, to help the drought and flood affected States to fund relief efforts, when the funds from the Calamity Relief Fund are not enough to meet their demand;

(b) if so, to what extent the Centre has released funds to the affected States; and

(c) to what exstent the affected States have utilised these funds?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Under the scheme of financing relief expenditure in the event of natural calamities of severe nature, assistance is released from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), after taking into account the balances available in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of the State.

Assistance approved by the High Level Committee (HLC) has been released, after adjusting the balance in the CRF of the States (as assessed by the Ministry of Home Affairs), as per the following details:—

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. T. Subbrami Reddy.

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	State	Amount approved by HLC subject to adjustment of CRF balance	Balance in CRF*	Assistance sanctioned from NCCF@
1.	Andhra Pradesh	174.61	205.93	—
2.	Chhattisgarh	92.73	46.88	45.85
3.	Haryana	109.65	194.75	—
4.	Himachal Pradesh	39.45	29.65	9.80
5.	Jharkhand	42.06	79.05	—
6.	Karnataka	221.46	50.18	171.28
7.	Madhya Pradesh	125.89	30.86	95.03
8.	Maharashtra	20.00	—	20.00
9.	Orissa	120.18	176.37	—
10.	Punjab	125.41	343.11	—
11.	Rajasthan	207.68	216.92	—
12.	Tamil Nadu	228.30	118.60	109.70
13.	Uttaranchal	10.62	61.56	—
14.	Uttar Pradesh	481.10	243.45	237.65
	TOTAL:	1999.14	1797.31	689.31

An allocation of Rs. 11.66 crores has been sanctioned for Rajasthan for running cattle camps.

*As assessed by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

@After deducting balance in CRF

It has been decided by the High Level Committee (HCL) to examine the cases for further assistance to the above and other drought affected States around the middle of January, 2003. For floods, cases of Assam and Bihar were considered by the Ministry of Home Affairs, and as the entitlement of these States were within the available balances in their CRF, no assistance has been released to them from NCCF.

As the funds were released on 29th November, 2002 to the affected States, it is pre-mature to indicate the quantum of expenditure incurred.

श्री सभापति: डा॰ सुब्बारामी रेड्डी जी, आप पहले मुझे एक बात बताइए कि वह कौन सा मेकेनिज्म है जिसके कारण आपका क्वेश्चन डेली आता है?

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: महोदय, इस बात की जांच होनी चाहिए कि इनका सवाल डेली कैसे आ जाता है।

श्री प्रेम गुप्ता: मान्यवर इनका एक और क्वेश्चन भी है। इनका एक और क्वेश्चन 351 नम्बर भी है।

श्री सभापति: आप इस कला की जानकारी सब सदस्यों को दे दीजिए क्योंकि कई बार प्रयत्न करने के उपरांत भी उनके प्रश्न नहीं आते हैं। अगर आप इस कला की जानकारी सबको दे देंगे तो यह समस्या नहीं रहेगी।

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. MInister what has been the demand made by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, and how much money has been given? Now, in spite of the fact that Andhra Pradesh has been a drought-prone State for the last 40 years, I would like to know what made the Government to substantially reduce the demand of that State.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Sir, if we add up the demand made by 14 States, it comes to more than Rs. 30,000 crores; I do not know what was the exact demand from Andhra Pradesh. But the demand that these States made include all kinds of facilities, namely, irrigation, roads, and so on. So, the demand from each State has been very high. What the High level Committee has found is that the Andhra Pradesh has enough funds in its Calamity Relief Fund, and it is only after they spend the entire amount from this fund that the money from the contingency fund would be released. As of now, Andhra Pradesh has a balance of more than Rs. 205 crores, that is, around Rs. 206 crores in the Calamity Relief Fund.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, my second supplementary is this. It is being strongly argued in political circles—in fact, it was mention in the newspapers as well—that the Central Government wanted to give more money to Andhra Pradesh, but that on the request of the All-India Congress (I) Party President that more money should be given to Rajasthan and the other neighbouring States, they have reduced it. Is this a fact or not?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Sir, the procedure is that a team is sent from the Centre which includes representatives...

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: I am just asking whether it is a fact or

not that you reduced the amount of grant because the All-India Congress(I) Party President wanted more funds for certain States.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Sir, a team is sent, and after they make their recommendation, the Inter-Ministerial Group decides what relief can be given according to the guidelines of the Eleventh Finance Commission. So, we go by whatever is the recommendation of the Inter-Ministerial Group. So, even in the case of Andhra Pradesh...(*Interruptions*)

श्री सभापति: ठीक है, बैठिए आप .....(व्यवधान)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, he is not giving the reply to my question. He is speaking on the other subject. It is very important. I must get the reply.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: My reply is not over yet. Please be patient.

So, whatever the Inter-Ministerial Group has recommended for Andhra Pradesh, the High level Committee has accepted. That is the only basis on which money is given. What a party says, what the newspapers say and what allegations are there, have no place in the accepteance of these recommendations. Drought is a serious problem, and there should be no politics in that. The Centre and the States have to work together. (*Interruptions*)

श्री सभापति: प्लीज, बैठ जाइए....(व्यवधान)

SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN: Sir, 14 States have been given assistance. The State of Kerala experienced severe drought this year, with heavy losses in agriculture and power generation. Last year also, we had heavy floods and land-slides, and so many lives were lost. And the Government has not given a single rupee to the State of Kerala! You have given assistance to these 14 States. What is the reason for this discrimination?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Sir, the State Government of Kerala had sent a memorandum, only recently, about the problems they are facing because of drought. And a Central team has been sent there. When the report of that Central team is received, we will look into it.

डा॰ लक्ष्मीमल्ल सिंघवी: क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि इस वित्तीय सहायता के लिए सैद्धांतिक आधार क्या है और क्या यह वित्तीय सहायता समुचित समझी गई है और

अगर समुचित नहीं समझी गई है तो राजस्थान जैसे इलाकों में क्या कारण है कि चिंताजनक स्थिति के समाचार बराबर मिल रहे है?

श्री अजित सिंह: सभापति महोदय, 11वें फाइनेंस कमीशन ने आधार तय किया था कि अगर कोई सिवियर कैलेमिटी होगी तो किस-किस चीज के लिए नेशनल कंटिंजेंसी फंड से पैसा दिया जा सकता है। जो सेंट्रल टीम जाती है, वह उसी मापदंड के आधार पर रिकमंडेशन करती है। राजस्थान में सिवियर ड्राउट है, यह सभी मानते हैं। राजस्थान के पास जितना कैलेमिटी फंड है, उसके बारे में उन्होंने हमें रिपोर्ट्स दी हैं कि कितना खर्चा हुआ है। मुश्किल यह है कि राजस्थान ने पिछले साल ड्राउट पर जो खर्चा किया था, उसके लिए उन्होंने हमें कोई मैमोरेंडम नहीं भेजा था, हमारे पास उसकी कोई रिपोर्ट नहीं भेजी थी। अब वे कह रहे हैं कि 151 करोड़ रुपया उन्होंने पिछले साल खर्च कर दिया था। इसलिए अब उनके रिलीफ फंड में वह पैसा नहीं है। उन्होंने इसके बारे में रिपोर्ट भेजी है और सरकार उस पर विचार कर रही है हालांकि नेशनल कंटिंजेंसी फंड में ऐसा कोई प्रोविजन नहीं है कि पिछले साल का खर्चा इस साल में ऐडजस्ट किया जाए। पिछले वर्ष उन्होंने इस बारे में हमें कोई मैमोरेंडम तक नहीं भेजा था लेकिन अब उन्होंने कुछ लिखकर भेजा है और सरकार उस पर विचार कर रही है।

डा॰ लक्ष्मीमल्ल सिंघवी: इसमें राज्य सरकार का दोष हो सकता है लेकिन उन लोगों का कोई दोष नहीं है जो suffer कर रहे हैं।

*343. [*The questioner (Shri Nandi Yellaiah) was absent for answer vide page* 33.]

Allocations for Rail over bridges

*344. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial allocations by the centre, for the on-going construction of rail over-bridges, all over the country, zone-wise;

(b) the proposals pending for approval of the Centre for construction of rail over-bridges, State-wise; and

(c) the time-frame fixed by Government for clearance of the pending proposals, in view of the heavy vehicular traffic?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Financial allocation made by the centre, zone-wise for the on